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AF/1744

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Naoaki KATAOKA et al.

Serial No. 09/900,141

Filed July 9, 2001

METHOD FOR PURIFYING MATTER
CONTAMINATED WITH HALOGENATED
ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Confirmation No. 6498

Docket No. 2001-0978

Group Art Unit 1744

Examiner W. Beisner

**RESPONSE UNDER 37. CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1744.**

Do Not Date 1/3/02
THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In response to the Final Rejection dated July 31, 2002, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 13, 28, 36 and 38 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for purifying soil, sediment or sludge contaminated with a halogenated organic compound, which method comprises the step of:

adding a reducing agent and a water-soluble organic nutritional liquid containing a nutritional source for a heterotrophic anaerobic microorganism to the contaminated matter, the reducing agent having a standard electrode potential ranging from 130 mV to -2400 mV at 25°C with respect to the standard hydrogen electrode, the reducing agent being at least one species selected from the group consisting of reduced iron, an iron-silicon alloy, a titanium alloy, a zinc alloy, a manganese alloy, an aluminum alloy, a magnesium alloy and a calcium alloy, whereby an oxidation reduction potential of the contaminated matter reduced is maintained at not more than

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